

nearly in the form in which it is printed before any part of the 'Principles of Biology' could have been issued. Under these circumstances I did not feel called upon to award to Mr. Herbert Spencer the enunciation of views which I had been urging for years in private, and which I had only not published in full because, being absolutely opposite to the received doctrine that structures produce and determine functions, I did not wish to incur that "faint praise" which I had already found to be the reward of young men who propound new views.

The actual priority is a matter of no scientific importance; and for all that I care, any one who pleases to claim it is welcome to any credit that there may be in it. I do not doubt but the award of that credit will be made by others.

I am Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

HARRY SEELEY.

#### *A new Rodent.*

M. Alphonse Milne-Edwards described lately before the Philomathic Society of Paris a very beautiful new rodent lately living in the Jardin d'Acclimatation. It is covered with long soft fur on the body and tail, and black, with white stripes, like a skunk. The teeth are like those of the Hamsters. The skull is most peculiar: the sides of the crown are extended, covering the muscles of the jaw like a hood; and all parts of the skull are studded with regular minute bony processes, only to be compared with the rugosities on the sternum of the *Trionyces*, but differing from them in all the processes being separate and nearly of equal size. M. Alphonse Milne-Edwards has given the name of *Lophiomys Imhausii* to the animal, which was sent from Aden.—*L'Institut*, Feb. 6, 1867.

*On Euphysetes simus.* By Sir WALTER ELLIOT.

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—On taking up the April Number of the 'Annals' this forenoon in the library of the Linnean Society, I observed a note by Dr. Gray, on Prof. Owen's description of Indian Cetacea from materials furnished by me, in which a statement occurs at page 263, made, no doubt, under an entire misapprehension of the facts, but which may lead to further error unless at once explained.

It is quite true that two representations of the same specimen of *Physeter simus* have been given, the one as a male, the other as a female; but the mistake arose from my having failed to observe, when communicating my notes and drawings to Prof. Owen, that I had inadvertently allowed a cancelled drawing of the *wongu* to remain in the packet. This incorrect sketch has been in my portfolio from the day it was made, fourteen years ago. During that interval it has been lent, with other drawings, at various times, to persons interested in natural history, and has been out of my possession for days, and sometimes for weeks. It is only now, on carefully examining it, that I have discovered a pencil note, made by some per-

son, thus, "*wonga* ♂," which is wholly unauthorized, but which at once explains how Prof. Owen has been misled.

I had already, on my arrival in London, discovered the mistake, and took immediate steps to rectify it. But some time elapsed before I recovered the drawings from the Zoological Society and obtained my papers from Scotland. As soon as I had cleared up the difficulty, I sent a full explanation of the circumstances to Prof. Owen, and called on him to express my regret for having led him into error. He said he would communicate with the Secretary of the Zoological Society on the subject, and at the same time returned to me some other drawings he had found among those I sent him, which showed that I had even been more careless than I supposed; for they related to matters wholly irrelevant, several of them being figures of other Cetaceans which I had copied from published works for reference, and which I should assuredly have eliminated had I examined the contents of my packet, as I ought to have done.

As to the missing lower jaw, it was unfortunately lost or mislaid in transmitting the specimens from India; but it had been in my possession for eight or nine years, and I can vouch for the accuracy of the drawings, which were carefully compared with the original.

I shall feel obliged by your inserting this in your next Number.

WALTER ELLIOT.

Linnean Society, Burlington House.

April 26, 1867.

#### *Addition to the Note on Euphysetes simus.*

The remarks I made at page 263 on the drawings and the sex of *Euphysetes simus* were founded on some observations of Sir Walter Elliot, who discovered the species and had the drawings made; and he seemed much annoyed at the mistake. I am this day (the 16th of April) informed (and Sir Walter Elliot was evidently not aware of the circumstance, and I have never seen the drawings) that some foolish mischievous person has made additions and notes on the drawings, which fully justified Professor Owen in believing they were intended to represent the two sexes of the species.—  
J. E. GRAY.

#### *Foraminiferal Soundings.*

A series of twenty-nine soundings, made in November 1866 (under the superintendence of Captain Oesterreicher, of the Imperial Navy of Austria), along the southernmost part of the west coast of the Istrian peninsula, yielded the following results:—Some contained only small Shells and detritus of shells, with Polyzoa and Corals and very few Foraminifera; others, especially of sandy and loamy ooze, were poor in small Polyzoa and Shells, but richer in both small and relatively large Foraminifera. Soundings from a depth of 13–130 feet (Austrian) abounded in *Polystomella crista*, Lam., and *Rotalia Beccarii*, Linn., associated with rarer specimens of *Miliola (Triloculina) trigonula*, Lam., *M. (Quinqueloculina) seminulum*, Linn., *M. (Q.) bicornis*, Walk., and its var. *angulata*, and *M. (Spiroloculina)*